

State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 1

Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Formal Public Comment, Committee Reports from State Board Members, Literacy Campaign Information, Statewide Review of Educational Opportunities, Secretary's Report

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, President; G. Patrick Heffernan, Randall L. Hughes, II; Barbara B. Rutt; and Terry M. Whittaker. Vice President Jorge Melendez arrived right after roll was called. Secretary of Education Mark Murphy was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present.

Attached is the sign in sheet of attendees for the Board meeting. The agenda was approved as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mrs. Rutt. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Minutes from the regular meeting of March 19, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously by voice vote.

No individuals signed up for public comment.

Board members highlighted their monthly activities. Mr. Heffernan attended the National Association of State Boards of Education Legislative Conference. Mr. Hughes represented the State Board at the meeting of the Enrollment Preference Task Force and noted the draft report is expected to be completed by June 30. Ms. Johnson also attended the NASBE Legislative Conference and highlighted meeting with Delaware's Congressional delegation. She also attended the Reform Compensation Field Trip and had the privilege of attending the meeting of the Tennessee State Board of Education while she was in Nashville. The Executive Director's report was highlighted as well as an update on the State Board's Literacy Campaign and anew item, the Statewide Review of Educational Opportunities which was launched at the Board's March meeting by Governor Markell. The first meeting is scheduled for April 27th. Dr. Gray noted the Common Core for Common Ground has invited the State Board to attend their Bright Spots celebration.

Secretary Murphy provided his monthly report and spoke on his experience at Chipman Middle School and the use of student feedback for instruction. He also highlighted that the State's higher education institutions have stated that students earning a "3" or above on the Smarter Balanced assessment could enroll in college courses without any remedial classes.

State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 2

Showcase of Innovation-Leadership Preparation Programs

Showcase of Innovation

The Board received a presentation on Leadership Preparation Programs which highlighted three different programs in the State that is targeting great leaders for Delaware schools. Ned Gladfelter, Principal at Claymont Elementary School and Monty Gerhart from Wilmington University presented the Masters of School Leadership Program. Angela Morton

from the Delaware Leadership Project along with Family Foundations Principal Rachel Valentin presented their program and Indian River Superintendent Susan Bunting and Principal Renee Jerns highlighted the district's Administrator Development Program.

Assisting in the presentation were Christopher Ruszkowski and Shannon Holston from the Teacher Leader Effectiveness Unit at the Department.

The Board recessed from 2:27 p.m. to 2:37 p.m.

State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 3
Assessment Inventory Initiative and Update on Implementation of Smarter Balanced
Summative Assessment and Common Ground for the Common Core Update

Assessment Inventory Initiative and Update on
Implementation of Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment

Penny Schwinn and Carolyn Lazar made this presentation to the State Board. An overview was presented on the review of current state assessments and the feedback that has been received from schools and districts. It was noted that over the next five years the Department's goal is to reduce total testing time and ensure that students are given meaningful assessments. Grants are available for districts to assist in completing an assessment inventory and developing an action plan on the findings of the inventory.

The Board also received an update on Smarter Balanced which indicated that 15,132 tests have been completed in ELA in 22 districts and charter and 9,175 tests in mathematics in 21 districts and charters. Feedback on the Smarter Balanced assessment notes that there have been more issues for the Help Desk but that was anticipated as this is a new assessment. Student comments are that the test is more interesting and teachers are pleased to have the writing included.

Common Ground for the Common Core Update

Chief Academic Officer Michael Watson provided the State Board with an update on the Common Core implementation. He noted that 75% of teachers and principals have noted that Common Ground has helped them create or identify changes that are happening in the classroom. Also schools and districts are using PLCs on assessments to drive instruction. Common Ground 3.0 continues many of the original features of Common Ground but also has redesigned some of the features and enhanced others.

The Board recessed from 3:55 p.m. to 4:06 p.m. Mr. Hughes asked to be excused as he had a previous commitment.

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 4
Regulations, Charter Schools, Professional Standards Board,
Request for Forgiveness of Days/Hours, Appeals and Review,
Information Items and Adjournment**

Regulations

Tina Shockley, the Department's Policy Advisor, presented the Department's regulations
Regulation 923 Children with Disabilities Subpart B General Duties and Eligibility of Agencies

The regulation was presented for action. It was noted that comments were received and revisions made based on those comments. The Secretary seeks the consent of the State Board to amend Regulation 923 in order to presumptively include the eligibility for extended school year reading services in a student's IEP for students who are not beginning to read by age seven. The motion was made by Mrs. Rutt; seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote (Mr. Hughes was not present). The Board signed the appropriate order.

Regulation 925 Children with Disabilities Subpart D Evaluations, Eligibility Determination, Individualized Education Programs

The regulation was presented for action. It was noted that comments were received. The Secretary seeks the consent of the State Board to amend Regulation 925 in order to clarify that eligibility for reading-based extended school year services shall be determined in accordance with 14 Delaware Administrative Code, Section 923.6.0. The motion was made by Mr. Melendez; seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote (Mr. Hughes was not present). The Board signed the appropriate order.

Regulation 1105 School Transportation – For Discussion

This regulation was discussed and will be presented for action at the May State Board meeting. This regulation is being amended to align with changes in Title 14 of the Delaware Code including, but not limited to, the maximum age of a school bus for use on a regular route, criminal background checks, and the process for training school bus drivers. Additionally, it will establish a mandatory in-service training program for school bus drivers and aides, it will require an annual physical for school bus aides, and will direct districts to make disbursements on a prorated basis when they fund a portion of the transportation costs. Ron Love, Education Associate for Pupil Transportation was present to respond to questions.

Charter Schools

Jen Nagourney from the Charter School Office provided the charter items. She was joined by David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education and Chair of the Charter School Accountability Committee.

Major Modification – Design Lab Charter School

Design Lab Charter High School has requested a major modification to modify its site from 519 Market Street in Wilmington to 179 Stanton Christin Road in Newark. The Charter School Accountability Committee has reviewed the modification application and recommends approval. Secretary Murphy agreed with the recommendation of the Charter School Accountability Committee and asked for the consent of the State Board to approve the request. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to consent to the approval of the major modification change of location request of Delaware Design Lab. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Hughes was not present at time of vote).

Formal Review - Academy of Dover

Ms. Nagourney briefly highlighted the issues causing Academy of Dover to be placed on formal review including an incomplete audit, concerns if the Citizens Budget Oversight Committee has been established and its overall rating of “Does Not Meet” on the Academic Framework. Secretary Murphy recommended that the school be placed on formal review. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan that the State Board consents to the recommendation of the Secretary and places Academy of Dover on formal review. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Hughes not present at time of vote).

Formal Review – Delaware Design Lab

Ms. Nagourney briefly highlighted that Delaware Design Lab has failed to meet its 80% minimum enrollment as required by law. Secretary Murphy recommended that the school be placed on formal review. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker that the State Board consents to the recommendation of the Secretary and places Delaware Design Lab on formal review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Hughes not present at time of vote).

Formal Review – Freire Charter School

Ms. Nagourney briefly highlighted that Freire Charter School has failed to meet its 80% minimum enrollment as required by law. Secretary Murphy recommended that the school be placed on formal review. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez that the State Board consents to the recommendation of the Secretary and places Freire Charter School on formal review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Hughes not present at time of vote).

Formal Review – Prestige Academy

Ms. Nagourney briefly highlighted that Prestige Academy has failed to meet its 80% minimum enrollment as required by law. The school also has an overall rating of “Does Not Meet” on its academic framework. Secretary Murphy recommended that the school be placed on formal review. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan that the State Board consents to the recommendation of the Secretary and places Prestige Academy on formal review. The motion

was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Hughes not present at time of vote).

Removal of Probation – Academia Antonio Alonso

Ms. Nagourney noted that in April of 2014, this school was placed on probation due to concerns about low enrollment and financial instability. Over the last year, the Department has monitored the school's enrollment and finances. The school's current enrollment is 91% of its approved enrollment. Secretary Murphy recommended that the school be discharged from the status of probation. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt that the State Board consents to the recommendation of the Secretary to discharge Academia Antonio Alonso from probation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Hughes not present at time of vote).

Charter Monthly Update

Ms. Nagourney provided a brief update.

Professional Standards Board

Chris Kenton, Executive Director for the Professional Standards Board, presented the PSB items.

Regulation 1559 Skilled and Technical Science Teacher – For Discussion

This regulation shall apply to the issuance of a Standard Certificate, pursuant to 14 Del.C. §1220(a) for Skilled and Technical Sciences Teacher in a Specific Career Area. This certification is required for grades 9 to 12 and for grades 6 to 8 in a Middle Level school. Certificates issued are in the specific career area. A general Skilled and Technical Sciences certification does not exist, and qualified educators may become certified for more than one specific career area by meeting the qualifications for each area. This regulation is being reviewed under a five year cycle. Luke Rhine, CTE/STEM Director for the Department was also present to respond to questions.

Regulation 1590 Delaware Administrator Standards – For Discussion

It was noted that the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) Standards for School Leaders establish a common set of knowledge, skills and attributes expected of school leaders. These nationally recognized standards describe leadership behaviors and skills established for Delaware School Leaders, and serve as the foundation for preparation and appraisal of school leaders. In accordance with 14 Del.C. §1205, this regulation shall be applied to all school administrators employed within the public schools and charter schools of the State of Delaware. This regulation is being reviewed under a five year cycle. After review, this regulation is being reauthorized without changes.

Leadership Preparation Application Program – For Action

The Board received a brief overview of the application for A School Principal Certification Program. At its April meeting, the Professional Standards Board made a motion to recommend approval for 2 cohorts, the Course of Study Program UDEL PPP as submitted. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to agree with the recommendation of the Professional Standards Board and requested that the Secretary concur with final approval of the certification program. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Hughes not present at time of vote). Dr. Jackie Wilson from the DASL program at the University of Delaware was also present to respond to questions.

Request for Forgiveness of Days/Hours

Representing the Delaware Chief School Officers Association, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent of the Caesar Rodney School District; Dr. Susan Bunting, Superintendent of the Indian River School District and Debbie Wicks, Superintendent of the Smyrna School District, requested that the two days that Governor Markell closed State Offices, February 17 and March 5, 2015 be forgiven for staff and students. There was discussion on how districts are making up the lost time and how other districts have enough hours currently in their school calendars. Secretary Murphy commented that many districts were proactive after his comments last year when a similar request was made and the creative ways districts are responding to lost time this year. He requested the approval of the State Board to forgive the two staff days State Offices were closed on February 17 and March 5, 2015 and the equivalent hours for high school seniors only. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt to approve the Secretary's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried by roll call vote. (Yes: Mr. Heffernan, Mrs. Rutt, Dr. Whittaker, Dr. Gray. Abstain: Mr. Melendez. Mr. Hughes was not present at time of vote).

Appeals and Reviews

Ms. Kirshon provided an update.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. (Mr. Hughes present at time of vote).

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary
and Secretary of Education